

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5        1.        A method of providing a fully interactive and integrated planning tool in an integrated software suite for spatial decision making comprising spatial decision-making and land-use planning software modules wherein modifications made to land-use scenarios in one software module are immediately reflected in other modules, comprising the steps of:

10                (a) enabling each module in the software suite to record each scenario data modification performed by that module in a common spatial database;

15                (b) creating a clearinghouse hub that is capable of receiving notifications of scenario data modifications from each module and of immediately notifying all other modules of each scenario data modification;

20                (c) enabling each module to immediately inform said clearinghouse hub of each scenario data modification performed by that module; and

25                (d) enabling each module to respond to each notification of a scenario data modification received from said clearinghouse hub by immediately accessing the modified scenario data in said common spatial database.

30        2.        The method of claim 1, wherein said software suite is integrated with a desktop GIS.

35        3.        The method of claim 1, wherein said software suite comprises an impact analysis module.

40        4.        The method of claim 1, wherein said software suite comprises a 3D visualization module.

45        5.        The method of claim 1, wherein said software suite comprises a forecasting module.

6. An integrated software-based system for spatial decision making comprising:

- (a) a common spatial database;
- (b) a clearinghouse hub; and
- (c) a plurality of spatial decision-making and land-use planning software

5 modules, wherein each module is operative to record in said common spatial database each scenario data modification performed by that module and operative to immediately inform said clearinghouse hub of each scenario data modification performed by that module;

10 wherein said clearinghouse hub is operative to receive notifications of scenario data modifications from each of said modules and to immediately notify all other of said modules of each scenario data modification; and

15 wherein each module is operative to respond to each notification of a scenario data modification received from said clearinghouse hub by immediately accessing the modified scenario data in said common spatial database.

15 7. The system of claim 6, further comprising an integrated desktop GIS.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein said plurality of spatial decision-making and land-use planning software modules comprises an impact analysis module.

20 9. The system of claim 6, wherein said plurality of spatial decision-making and land-use planning software modules comprises a 3D visualization module.

10. The system of claim 6, wherein said plurality of spatial decision-making and land-use planning software modules comprises a forecasting module.